



Alaska Interagency
Coordination Center



Morning Highlights

Tuesday, June 21, 2011
Morning Highlights
Time: 11:00 a.m.

Contacts
Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center: (907) 356-5511
Report Fires: 911

Wildfire Update

Three new fires were reported yesterday. The **Tagagawik River Fire**, 72 miles west of Huslia, is a 2 acre lightning fire that is in monitor status. The **Kungsugrug Fire**, 7 miles west of Selawik, is a 0.1 acre human-caused fire that was controlled by 2 smokejumpers and will be demobed today. The 1.4 acre **Porcupine Ridge Fire** is 11 miles west of McGrath. A helitack crew responded to the fire, and it was contained last night. Statewide, 34 fires are currently active, with six of these staffed and the remainder in monitor status. According to the Alaska Interagency Coordination Center, there have been 334 fires this year to date in Alaska, and 265,942 acres have burned. Current fires of note include:

The **Hastings Fire**, 15 miles northwest of Fairbanks, remains at 22,819 acres and is 61 percent contained. Fire behavior consists of smoldering and creeping. Minimal fire spread is expected. Mop-up and fireline rehabilitation are ongoing.

The **East Volkmar Fire**, 25 miles northeast of Delta Junction, is 58,059 acres and is 39 percent contained. Minimal fire activity is occurring on this fire, and management objectives have been met. Demobing of fire resources is in progress.

The **Little Creek Fire**, 36 miles south of Tanana, is 26,200 acres and zero percent contained. Fire behavior yesterday included smoldering, creeping, and isolated tree torching in the interior. Burnout operations and mop-up continue near Akers airstrip.

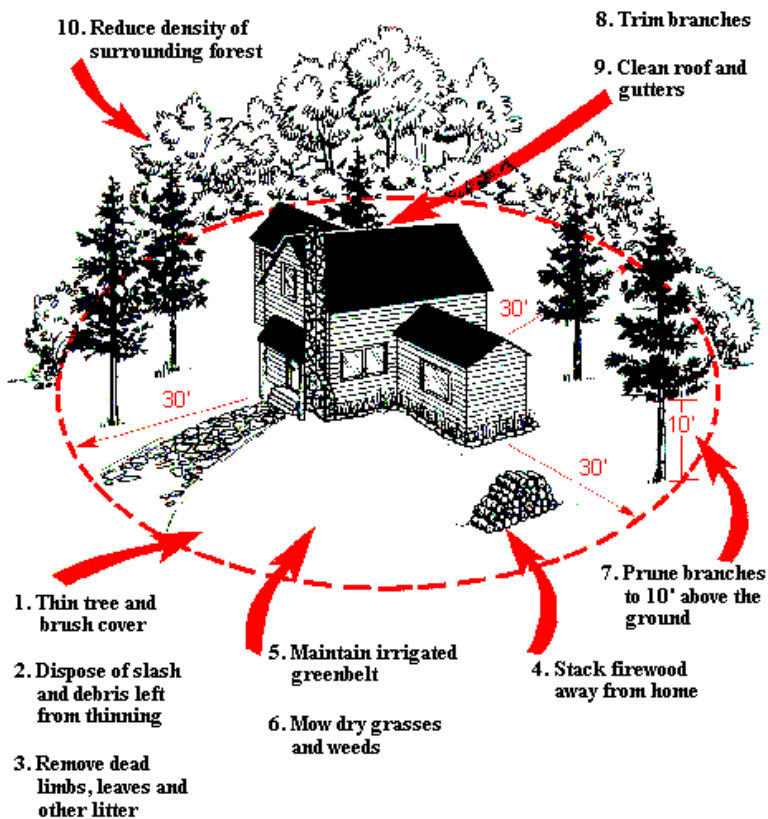
For further information:

Alaska Fire Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>

Fire news releases: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/newsroom.php>

Fire Weather

A series of low pressure waves continues moving in from the east, bringing rain to much of Alaska through Thursday. The Brooks Range and northeast Alaska will see isolated thunderstorms today. High pressure will begin to push to the south on Thursday, improving conditions in northern Alaska late in the week. Southern Alaska will remain cool and damp, however, due to low pressure moving in from the west. Please continue to be careful with fire in the outdoors throughout Alaska's fire season. Many recent fire starts have been human-caused.



Be Firewise

We are experiencing a quieter period in Alaska's fire season, but historical records suggest that the fire season is likely to continue awhile longer. This temporary break is a good time to be thinking about whether your house could be defended by firefighters if a wildfire should approach. The diagram on the left shows ten important, but relatively easy, steps you could take to make your home more defensible against fire. You can learn more about how to protect your property from fire by visiting the Firewise Alaska website at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>.

Aviation Awareness

Two TFRs remain in place over fires: the Hastings Fire (FDC is 1/8460) and the East Volkmar Fire (FDC 1/7595). Helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft support fire suppression and crew/cargo movement throughout the state, frequently in areas with visibility restricted due to smoke. Please check NOTAMS for Temporary Flight Restrictions: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>. Report new fires you may observe to the nearest FAA facility.

Alaska Fire Information

The Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center (also called Joint Information Center or JIC) will be operational through Thursday, June 23. The information center is an interagency communications office responsible for researching, coordinating and disseminating wildfire information to the public and the media. The JIC is activated when fire officials determine that the number and complexity of wildfires burning across the state call for additional public information presence and coordination. Office hours

Fire Information Contacts

- **Alaska Interagency Fire Information Center**
 - 907-356-5511
 - AlaskaJIC@gmail.com
- **Hastings Fire Information:**
 - 907-479-4801
 - <http://inciweb.org/incident/2261/>
 - HastingsFire@gmail.com
- **East Volkmar Fire Information:**
 - <http://inciweb.org/incident/2253/>
- **Fairbanks Area Division of Forestry Fire Information:**
 - Terry Anderson: 451-2626 x2
 - FireInfoFAF@gmail.com

are currently 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Phone 907-356-5511 for the latest information.

Wildfire Smoke

Individuals with health concerns should consult personal medical providers.

- AK Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Smoke:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- DEC Air Quality Advisories/Alerts:
<https://myalaska.state.ak.us/dec/air/airtoolsweb/AirOnlineServices.aspx>
- Fairbanks North Star Borough Smoke Visibility/ Air Quality:
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality> and
<http://co.fairbanks.ak.us/airquality/Docs/ParticulateLevels.pdf>

Additional References

- Alaska Interagency Coordination Center: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/>
 - Map of Current Fires: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/predsvcs/maps.php>
 - Alaska Situation Report: <http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/aicc/sitreport/current.pdf>
 - National Fire Situation Report: <http://www.nifc.gov/nicc/sitreprt.pdf>
 - Guide to Wildland Fire Suppression in AK:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/content/news/psa/Media%20Guide%20to%20AK%20Wildland%20Fire%20Suppression.pdf>
- Alaska Division of Forestry (Burn Permit Info): <http://forestry.alaska.gov/burn/>
- Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group - Education and Reference Materials:
<http://fire.ak.blm.gov/administration/awfcg.php>
- Protect your home and property!: <http://firewise.org/> and
<http://forestry.alaska.gov/pdfs/firewise09.pdf>
- Department of Environmental Conservation (Smoke Concerns):
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/air/am/smoke.htm>
- Department of Transportation (Road Closure Info):
(907) 451-2240, <http://511.alaska.gov/>
- National Parks Service: <http://www.nps.gov/akso/Fire/firehome.htm>
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife: <http://www.fws.gov/fire/>
- USDA Forest Service: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fire/>
- Anchorage Fire Department: www.muni.org/fire
- National Weather Service: <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/>
- Temporary Flight Restriction Information: <http://tfr.faa.gov/tfr2/list.html>
- Federal Aviation Administration: <http://www.faa.gov/>

AICC Morning Highlights is compiled by Alaska Division of Forestry and BLM Alaska Fire Service.